

REMARKS

The Applicants believe that no fees are due for these amendments to the claims. However, if the Applicants are in error, the Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to deduct any fees necessary from Account No. 13-3723.

Should the Examiner wish to speak to the Applicants' Attorney, he may call the number listed below to do so. Also listed below is the facsimile number should the Examiner wish to fax communications to the Applicant's Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

(Beginning at 26)

26. The method of claim 25[4], wherein the step of diffusing the fluorine comprises achieving a desired fluorine concentration profile by heating the reservoir.
29. The method of claim 25[4], further comprising the step of collapsing the substrate tube into a preform and drawing an optical fiber from the preform, wherein the step of diffusing comprises drawing the fiber.
32. The method of claim 25[4], further comprising the step of forming a diffusion barrier layer between the cladding and the fluorine reservoir.
33. An optical fiber manufactured in accordance with the method of claim [24]25.
34. An optical preform manufactured in accordance with the method of claim [24]25.